



BESPOKEPLUS



"If your work speaks for itself don't interrupt"

Access Expo 2021



Congratulations to the folks at www.AccessExpo.ca who have persevered and have put on this

event for the second year in a row; it goes on September 17-18, 2021 at Variety Village in Scarborough www.varietylvillage.ca.

The Access Expo is a free 2-day event hosting exhibitors who service the disability community. This event picked up where the People in Motion Show left off and is an opportunity to showcase new products or services for independence and enhanced quality of life. It also has a host of speakers, events, and provides a super networking opportunity for all.

Tokyo Paralympics



The Paralympics were held in Tokyo 24 August - 5 September 2021 with 163 nations participating and 4,538 athletes. When the games were awarded, Japan embraced the challenge with all the energy and enthusiasm they had the last time they hosted in 1964 with

23 countries and 375 athletes. Despite the delays in hosting these games, it appears that everyone involved chalked them up to a resounding success; the hospitality shown was second to none and appreciated by all we have heard from, including those through the media.

As a former Paralympian, I looked forward to the games as per the spectacular event they are, on par with the Olympics. The Paralympics (derived from the Greek preposition to mean beside or alongside the meaning is to capture a parallel event to the Olympics). This is likely the fundamental reason that I have struggled with the games;

the Paralympics are their own games and not an add on or parallel event to anything.

The World Championships for wheelchair basketball on the other hand showcases a particular sport and that game is the focus to the event. Wheelchair Basketball as part of the Paralympics has traditionally been a super experience but this time I have a beef with the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) who were not organized enough to have their rules and regulations approved with the Paralympic folks and it ended up with some long time athletes of the sport ruled ineligible. No international governing body should be changing their rules for any other sport or organization. Wheelchair Basketball should have its own rules and regulations and if that makes them ineligible to participate in the Paralympics so be it. That sport is one of the few that are capable of making it on its own and the various governing bodies have not kept up to the development of the game on court. Shame on the National and International administrators around the world for not having saleable leagues showcasing the fantastic athletes in the game today. I don't rant very often but the domestic development in Canada seems to be at an all time low which dramatically impacts the next generation of superstars in the game. If that is not changed it will be a bleak outlook for wheelchair basketball in Canada.

The placing of our national teams well out of the medals in Tokyo was more an indication that the rest of the world is doing a great job, because Canada had incredible athletes competing. But, when the person behind high performance development working with athletes everyday is no longer in that position mere weeks before the event and the public does not why, there is a problem.

There is a problem if there are not enough administrators wearing it on their sleeve to drive the sport forward; and it is compounded by the fact that the domestic side of development has long since fallen off the radar.

You don't need to be an unwed mom to work with unwed moms, but it certainly helps that you have folks on your team that may have experienced life in that situation to provide a firsthand account for the trials and tribulations a person may encounter in that situation. Wheelchair Basketball Canada has one volunteer athlete representative that is on the group of 15 board and staff representing the sport. Some great folks, but how have we not spawned a group of former athletes or coaches that have the prerequisite to be involved in the game on the floor?

It is a good thing that the world championships are going to be hosted in Canada 2026 otherwise we may not qualify by then unless we make some dramatic changes to the way we grow the game here in Canada.

NSM Really National

Effective September 02, 2021, National Seating and Mobility (NSM) who bought up BC in this industry has made it official. They want to be national in Canada as well as the USA as they have acquired the Canada Care Medical Group (billed as Canada's second largest provider of home medical equipment [HME] and mobility services).



NSM now operate in five (5) provinces with 22 locations. They have a strong presence in the USA operating out of 45

states.

NSM belong to the Cinven group of companies which have investments in six (6) sectors (Business Services, Consumer, Industrial, Financial Services, Healthcare, and Technology, Media, Telcom). Of course, Cinven's values/vision (Ambition, Commitment to Excellence, Empowerment, Partnership, and Respect) are in line with NSM's HEART value/vision (Honor, Excellence, Accountability, Respect, Teamwork, Service).

Goes to show, that the continued involvement of investment firms that have raised €37 Billion to date want and need the support of people with a disability to ensure the continued financial success of their operations.

Batec Scrambler 2



Many manufacturers are having supply issues related to the pandemic. We are experiencing delays from many suppliers but have been able to weather the storm a little easier as we carry so much stock.

On the Batec side of things, we have good supply of the Mini 2, Mini's (model discontinued now), E1's (discontinued now), E1 Rapids (discontinued now), E2's, E2 Rapids, and single digits of Scrambler 2's, for para's, quad's and hemi's.

Eulogies

We have had the unfortunate opportunity to write or review multiple eulogies in the past few months. They mention skills and accomplishments but have really focused on the persons virtues and how they have lived their life. Their love, kindness, humility, compassion, wisdom, courage, etc. Two most recent are John and Mom and you will find their eulogies in the link highlighted.



Wheelchair basketball lost John Boyko on August 22, 2021 at 71 years young. A teammate at every level, he founded and ran numerous teams. He was dubbed [Mr. Fixer Upper](#) as he could make something out of nothing. His life teammate, Patti Jones was also a National Team Athlete.



Eszter (Judy) McClellan (Mom) passed away on September 04, 2021 at 101 years young. Here is her [eulogy](#). Services were held in her hometown of Pierceland, SK September 11, 2021. Good job Wilma, Mable, Kacie, Kaycie and the rest of the folks involved.

Bits and Bytes

- 49 [Access Expo](#) September 17-18, 2021 Toronto, ON;
- 49 [Abilities Expo](#) Oct 1-3, 2021 New York, NY;
- 49 [Rehacare Dusseldorf, DE](#) **Cancelled 2021**;
- 49 [37th ISS](#) **Postponed to 2022** Pittsburg, PA;
- 49 [Abilities](#) **Postponed to 2022** Los Angeles, CA;
- 49 [Abilities](#) Nov 12-13/21 postponed Toronto, ON;
- 49 [9th Annual SCI](#) [Virtual](#) Conference Nov 16-18, 2021;
- 49 [Abilities Expo](#) December 3-5, 2021 Dallas, TX;
- 49 [37th ISS](#) **Jan 31-Feb 2, 2022** Pittsburg, PA;
- 49 [Abilities](#) March 4-6, 2022 Los Angeles, CA;
- 49 [Abilities](#) May 13-14, 2022 Toronto, ON;
- 49 [Rehacare Dusseldorf, DE](#) **September 14-17, 2022.**

BESPOKE PLUS is the newsletter of 49 Bespoke Inc., which markets products from around the world designed to better meet the needs of people with a disability.

We have grown up in sport, have a social service background, and have adopted an advocacy role in our business practice. **Comments are welcome.**